

Turkey: Talks needed before Cyprus meeting

AMMAN (R) — Turkey's Foreign Minister Safi Giray Friday dampened hopes for an international conference on Cyprus next month, saying no partnership could be established unless there was trust between the island's two communities. Mr. Giray told a news conference at the end of a three-day visit to northern Cyprus: "If there is no trust [between the communities] it is not possible to establish a partnership." Kostas Atakol, foreign minister of the self-proclaimed Turkish-Cypriot state, said a date for the United Nations-brokered conference, to include Greeks, Turkey and the Greek and Turkish-Cypriot communities, could still not be fixed. "We have to reach agreement on the substance with the Greek Cypriots. We have not reached that point yet," Mr. Atakol said. The U.N. conference is being promoted strongly by the United States, which wants to improve relations between the two NATO members on the alliance's south-eastern flank. "Following the completion of the efforts of the U.N. secretary-general's representatives, a direct meeting should be organised between the two community leaders with top priority," a declaration said.

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5 killed in Iranian protest, group says

AMMAN (I.T.) — At least five people were shot dead and scores injured when Iran's Revolutionary Guards opened fire on a demonstration against the government in the city of Zanjan in northwestern Iran, the main Iranian opposition group, Mujahideen-e-Khalq, said Friday. Angry residents chanting "death to Khomeini" and "death to Rafsanjani" set government vehicles and buildings ablaze in response to Thursday's shootings, according to a statement telefaxed to the Jordan Times. If true, the incident would be the most serious in recent protests against the government of President Hashemi Rafsanjani. More than 30,000 participated in the protest demonstration in Zanjan, about 250 kilometres from Tehran, the statement said. Revolutionary Guards were dispatched from other cities to quash the unrest, it said. The clashes lasted several hours, and the guards arrested some 2,000 demonstrators, it added.

Minor accident reported at Chernobyl

MOSCOW (AP) — Nuclear safety inspectors are investigating a leakage of contaminated water during repairs at the Chernobyl nuclear plant, the government said in a statement Friday. A leak in a system of exterior cooling pipes allowed low-radioactive water to seep into the building housing the plant's second reactor. Thursday, said Olga Chernova, spokeswoman for the government's nuclear safety oversight committee. The reactor was not operating at the time of the accident, she said. There was no radioactive contamination outside the building, no damage and no injuries, she said. Chernobyl was the site of the world's worst nuclear power disaster. An explosion and fire on April 26, 1986, spewed radiation over a wide area of the Ukraine and the neighbouring republics of Russia and Byelorussia. Official accounts say 31 people died in the accident, but others say it killed more than 500.

Ethiopia allows political rights

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's new government has approved rights Friday to hold two political meetings and demonstrations, officially ending years of repressive one-party Marxist rule. The government gazette set legal conditions for legal demonstrations but banned those provoking ethnic mistrust and hatred, or discriminating on grounds of race, religion or sex. Members of former dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam's ruling party, abolished after his government was overthrown in May, were also barred from politics, it said. Political organisations were required to submit details of meetings 48 hours before they were held and some venues such as embassies and hospitals were off-limits, the gazette added. A transitional government established at a conference of 21 political groups in July adopted a charter defending civil human rights and promising multi-party elections in 1993.

Belfast violence spirals

BELFAST (AP) — Two masked gunmen Friday shot dead an Irish Republican Army (IRA) sympathiser as he arrived for work at a factory, raising suspicions of a new revenge killing by Protestant paramilitaries. The man who died was the second member of Sinn Fein, the outlawed IRA's political front, and the sixth person shot dead a spiral of sectarian murders in the past seven days. Police said the gunmen died after killing the gunman identified by Sinn Fein as Thomas Conroy, at the Portnae Eel bushes near Kilrea, a largely Roman Catholic area in County Londonderry. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Germany pledges to aid Turkey combat Kurds

ANKARA (R) — The German ambassador Friday promised to help Turkey fight Kurdish separatist rebels who kidnapped 10 German tourists in the southeast in March. "My government severely condemns PKK (Kurdish Workers Party) terrorism and will do its contribution to fight it," Eickhoff told a news conference. But he again denied charges by Turkish government officials that the German tourists had faked their own kidnapping. "We believe these were not actors but in this game," Mr. Eickhoff said. "Conclusions to the contrary drawn from the existing evidence are not founded." He said the Turkish authorities had given him the documents on which they had based their allegations, among them a diary kept by one of the Germans during his detention. Mr. Eickhoff said evidence in the diary had been poorly translated into Turkish and the case was "mission accomplished."

Spurred by Turkey's emergency regional governor for the northeast, Hayri Kozakoglu, he said the tourists had taken photographs of themselves doing dances in places where they had been held, made telephone and written coded notes in diaries.

King believes Palestinians will solve problem over representation

His Majesty voices condemnation of Kuwaiti measures against Jordanians and Palestinians, distress over Iraqis' suffering

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that he believed the Palestinians would succeed in forming a delegation to a Middle East peace conference planned to be held in October.

The King, in an interview with Reuter Thursday, also said he was planning to visit Syria for talks with President Hafez Al Assad "in the next few days."

In the interview, conducted by Reuter's Jane Araf after His Majesty had a telephone conversation with President Assad, the King said:

"I have sought to open the way regardless of any personal feelings. It is time and it is needed for our people at least to coordinate and compare notes and work together..."

The King said he expected the Palestinians to work out their problems with the superpower-sponsored Arab-Israeli conference proposed for October.

Algerian Islamists demand role for leaders in poll talks

ALGIERS (R) — The Muslim fundamentalist opposition which plunged Algeria into violence in June demanded Friday its arrested leaders be freed and allowed to take part in talks to a delayed election back on track.

The election — Algeria's first multi-party parliamentary vote — was planned in June. Grievances over the rules peaked in a fundamentalist strike and riots which brought down the government.

Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) preacher Abdelkader Moghni told some 2,000 militants in FIS that it would not join pre-election talks with the government without its leader Abassi Madani and deputy leader Ali Belhadj.

The two men face charges of armed conspiracy against the state. The military, enforcing a state of siege imposed on June 5, said last Monday it would pursue the cases despite efforts to disrupt them.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali is due to meet leaders of Algeria's 52 parties next Thursday.

The FIS stayed away from a first round of talks in July. Friday's sermon was its first clear statement of terms for taking part.

Mr. Moghni also insisted the state of siege be lifted.

"There is no dialogue under the state of siege, as our leaders said before being arrested," he said, preaching in Mr. Belhadj's place at the Summa Mosque in the poor district of Bah Al Oued, an FIS stronghold.

As a third condition, Mr. Moghni said strikers who supported FIS protests over the election rules must be accepted back in their jobs. Officials say 55 people died in unrest which erupted from the FIS strike.

Iraq will have to control over the oil revenue, which will be managed entirely by the United Nations.

Iraq's envoy to the United Nations, Abdul Amir Al Anbari, denounced the plan as a "neocolonialist trusteeship system" but stopped short of saying Baghdad would refuse to pump the oil.

Never before has the United Nations managed the trade of a member state and domestic distribution of supplies.

"We have been hit by a great shock which has plunged the militants into torpor and suspicion, each seeing a spy in the other," he said.

Mr. Belhadj and Mr. Madani, who preached alternate Fridays in Kubra Mosque on the heights of Algiers, regularly drew more than 10 times the number of worshippers.

The government plans to hold the election before the end of the year, possibly in November.

Perez de Cuellar is 'very hopeful' of hostage deal

BEIRUT (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, asked by Lebanese kidnappers to broker a swap of Western hostages for Arabs held by Israel, said Friday he was "very, very hopeful" of a settlement.

Imad Moughneyeh, known as the leading kidnapper of Westerners, was reported back in Beirut to oversee reaction to the freeing of an American and a Briton during the past eight days.

But the spiritual mentor of Hizbullah, an umbrella group for hostage-takers, introduced a note of caution by saying he feared Washington wanted to block an exchange.

The fate of seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon since the 1982 invasion, has become the key to any deal to end the long misery of Western and Arab captives.

Israel wants the release of those alive and proof that the others are dead before freeing about 400 Arabs held in the Jewish state or by an allied militia in South Lebanon.

"I have all reasons to believe that something may happen in a

matter of weeks but I cannot give any assurances. But I am very, very hopeful," Mr. Perez de Cuellar told reporters during a short holiday in Switzerland, after talks with Israeli negotiators in Geneva.

Asked what complications were hindering a solution, he said: "Nothing. I think we have to go into details (with the parties involved) about the deal we are discussing."

Muslim fundamentalist and security sources told Reuters Friday that Mr. Moughneyeh had returned to Beirut from Iran shortly before his Islamic Jihad group freed British hostage John McCarthy eight days ago.

In what Israel and Western diplomats saw as a breakthrough to the hostage saga, Mr. McCarthy gave an Islamic Jihad letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar urging him to mediate an exchange.

The fundamentalist sources said Mr. Moughneyeh told his men that Iran wished them to free two hostages and brief them on contacts to swap their captives for Arabs jailed by Israel.

American Edward Tracy was freed last Sunday.

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. approves monitored Iraqi oil sales worth \$1.6 b

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council has approved a one-time Iraqi oil sale worth up to \$1.6 billion, and U.N. officials were expected Friday to begin drawing up plans to monitor proceeds from the sale.

The resolution, passed overwhelmingly Thursday, states that the U.N. secretary-general has 20 days to present a detailed plan to monitor the oil sales and approve purchases of food and other humanitarian supplies.

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The government plans to hold the election before the end of the year, possibly in November.

Under a second resolution unanimously adopted, Iraq would

pay up to 30 per cent of its future oil revenues into a compensation fund for victims of Iraq's Aug. 2, invasion of Kuwait.

Oil revenues also would pay for the destruction of Iraq's chemical arsenal, inspection of its nuclear programme and demarcation of its border with Kuwait.

A third resolution adopted unanimously condemns Iraq's failure to fully disclose its nuclear programme, chemical and ballistic weapons programme and germ warfare research.

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"The council is holding the Iraqi people as hostage and asking a ransom which is the oil resources of Iraq," Mr. Anbari said.

In addition to the five permanent members, the council includes Austria, Belgium, Cuba, Ecuador, India, Ivory Coast, Romania, Yemen, Zimbabwe and Zaire.

He said the U.N. oil sale "undermines Iraq's sovereignty as a free country. It gives foreign powers the right to control Iraq's natural resources, dispose of its wealth and dictate its trade as they wish."

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said: "Iraq is being given an opportunity to help its own people, with safeguards,

given that the regime cannot be trusted."

Before the Gulf war, Iraq produced about 2.9 million barrels of oil a day, most of it for export. The United States bought about 440,000 barrels a day from Iraq.

Non-aligned nations criticised the resolution as being too restrictive and invasive. India said it was concerned the terms of the oil sale could set a precedent for U.N. involvement in countries' domestic affairs.

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Morocco frees 269 Sahara prisoners

RABAT (R) — Morocco has freed 269 people it arrested on suspicion of having contacts with independence-seeking guerrillas in the Western Sahara, the official news agency MAP said Friday.

The agency said they had been held by him and his associates, believed to be members of the pro-Iranian Hizbullah.

The agency said they had been held at Kelaat M'gouna, a small oasis in eastern Morocco, and other centres after being arrested in military operations.

They were held because of "their intelligence with the enemies of the Kingdom's territorial integrity," it added, referring to Polisario Front guerrillas who have been fighting Morocco since 1976 for independence of the former Spanish colony.

The United Nations is due to hold a referendum there next January to decide its future.

The detainees were released after the intercession of tribal leaders from the area and the Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs, an official body appointed by King Hassan.

Foreign human rights groups including London-based Amnesty International have reported the disappearance of hundreds of Western Saharans, who were allegedly held in detention centres.

The justice ministry later published a list of 110 political prisoners including two women pardoned by the King to mark the 12th anniversary on Wednesday of Morocco's annexation of the southern part of Western Sahara known as Wadi Eddebeh.

Morocco annexed Wadi Eddebeh after Mauritania abandoned the area ceded to it by Spain under an accord signed in Madrid under which Morocco and Mauritania shared the territory between them.

Among the prisoners pardoned is Ali Idrisi Kaitoum, a writer jailed for 15 years after publishing a collection of poems entitled Etincelles (Sparks) judged offensive to King Hassan.

The two women were identified as Saadia Qabil and Nezha Bernoussi who were jailed for six years in 1986 for plotting against the state. Mohammad Ganouchi jailed for 20 years and Mohammad Jaidi for 12 years at the same trial were also freed.

The list also included four members of the outlawed Fal Amarn (Forward), among them Abderrahman Nouda who was jailed for life in 1977.

MAP said four Marxists would remain in jail, including Ibrahim Serfaty, 66, the leader of Fal Amarn who was jailed for life in 1977 for plotting to set up a people's republic.

Two air force helicopters found the wreckage of the plane near

Palestinians to discuss U.S. promises in London

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The three Palestinian leaders who met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on six Middle East peace missions this year flew to London Friday for talks on U.S. promises ahead of a planned Mideast peace conference.

Israeli Radio said Faisal Al Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi and Zakaria Al Agha would also consult British Foreign Office officials on the U.S. proposals to convene the Middle East peace conference in October.

The Palestinian leaders left for London Friday morning, relatives said. The U.S. assurances seek to encourage the Palestinians to take part in the peace process.

The United States, trying to coax Israelis and Palestinians to a Middle East peace conference, has offered to write them both letters of assurances.

In an interview published in the Arab East Jerusalem Al Fajr newspaper Wednesday, Dr. Agha said they planned to meet experts on international law from outside the occupied territories, including Palestinians, to discuss the legal aspects of the proposed U.S. guarantees.

Mr. Husseini and Ms. Ashrawi met three U.S. officials a week ago in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah to draft their demands for assurances before going to the peace conference.

Palestinian sources said Mr. Husseini and Ms. Ashrawi asked U.S. officials to meet them outside the occupied territories to allow non-resident Palestinian experts to take part. There was no immediate U.S. reply.

Israel has given qualified support for a peace conference, insisting that the Palestinian team of negotiators exclude Arabs from East Jerusalem or from outside the occupied territories.

Palestinians, although keen on peace talks, say the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must name their delegation without outside interference.

Bessmerlykh sends message to Levy

Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmerlykh, in a message to his Israeli counterpart, expressed hope for a speedy resolution of procedural questions holding up the planned conference, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

Middle East News

Iran should gain from hostage release, improve image

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — By helping free Western hostages, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani hopes to reap economic and political rewards crucial to curbing discontent among his people and stifling radical rivals.

Mr. Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's pragmatists, is painfully aware that unless he can kick Iran's moribund economy into high gear, and quickly, he faces domestic turmoil that will bolster his anti-Western opponents.

To do that, he needs large-scale investment and advanced technology from the West. He has made some advances by building bridges over the last two years to end Iran's isolation, partly by encouraging contracts with U.S. and European companies.

But he is not likely to get the economic support he needs until the pro-Iranian zealots holding most of the 11 Western hostages in Lebanon unchain their captives.

Recent reports from Iran indicate growing unrest as conditions worsen, with no sign of an economic upswing after more than a decade of war, political upheaval and grotesquely inept economic management.

Travellers from Iran and opposition sources claim that discontent over rising prices, food and housing shortages, and growing unemployment have caused violent protests in Tehran and other cities.

"There's no question that Mr. Rafsanjani has big problems," Middle East analyst Hans-Heino Kopietz said.

Mr. Rafsanjani has acknowledged that the country's debt when the Iran-Iraq war ended in 1988 reached \$10 billion, said Mr. Kopietz, until recently with London's International Institute for Strategic Studies and now a consultant.

A U.N. team reported Tuesday that the damage to Iran's economy in the 1980-88 war totaled \$50 billion.

"Many Iranians, particularly the big bazaar merchants, are fed up with the hostage crisis. They see it as an impediment to economic development. They want it out of the way," Mr. Kopietz said.

Mr. Rafsanjani and his moder-

ate faction are widely believed to be behind pressure on the Lebanese captors to release some of the hostages on humanitarian grounds and as a goodwill gesture.

His eagerness to free the Western hostages, kidnapped by extremist factions organised and funded by Tehran in the 1980s, does not stem from any sudden moral conversion. Mr. Rafsanjani is as committed to the Islamic revolution as anyone else.

But he has realised that the crusade to export the revolution of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has failed.

If Mr. Rafsanjani can help free the hostages, the response by the United States and other Western powers who have held Iran at arm's length for more than a decade could be swift and beneficial.

Diplomatic relations with the United States, severed in 1979, could be resumed within a year, Mr. Kopietz said. The Americans will likely move to resolve the issue of Iran's estimated \$12 billion in assets frozen in the United States since 1979, funds that Tehran hardly needs.

The United States will also likely blocking Iranian oil imports, Tehran's economic lifeline, and restore trade. European nations would move to restore export credit guarantees, analysts believe.

Despite a liberalising trend in social practices and economics under Mr. Rafsanjani, there is still considerable anti-Western hostility in Iran. This is a potent force the radicals could exploit.

The radicals, led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mousavi, are virulently anti-Western and consider themselves the true heirs of Ayatollah Khomeini, who died in June 1989.

They believe Mr. Rafsanjani's policies betray Ayatollah Khomeini's revolutionary teachings and will open the door once more to the foreign economic domination that existed under the late Shah.

Until recently, Mr. Rafsanjani appeared to have gained the upper hand in the power struggle. But the radicals remain deeply entrenched in the bloated Iranian bureaucracy, and could undermine his efforts.

Computer failure helped Bakhtiar suspect

GENEVA (AP) — The hunt for the killers of former Iranian Premier Shapour Bakhtiar was stepped up Friday after a computer failure helped one of the Iranian suspects in the Aug. 6 assassination in Paris escape arrest in Switzerland.

The suspect, Ali Rad Vakili, had spent Monday and Tuesday night at a downtown hotel, carrying a Turkish passport with the name Musa Koce. His hotel registration card was inserted into the police computer as part of a regular check to see whether names of guests are on the wanted list.

But a computer failure delayed the processing until Wednesday when the suspect had already checked out of the hotel, police spokesman Thierry Magnin said in a telephone interview.

There has been no trace of another suspect, Mohammad Azadi, who had earlier been travelling with Mr. Vakili. The third Iranian, Farouqoum Boyer Ahmadi, vanished immediately after the stabbing.

Iraq said able to make vast quantities of germ weapons

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq was capable of producing vast quantities of biological warfare agents and a limited number of biological weapons at a site inspected by a U.N. team earlier this month, its leader said.

David Kelly told a news conference that no direct evidence of biological weapons was found at the site, Salman Pak, 35 kilometres southeast of Baghdad. "That does not mean to say that weapons were not manufactured there," the British scientist added.

"The site had been extensively damaged by coalition forces (during the Gulf war), by bomb damage, and in fact the Iraqis had cleared certain key buildings from that site, which hindered our inspection of that site."

During its five-day visit, from Aug. 3 to 7, the 28-member U.N. team discovered Iraqi capability to research, produce, test and store biological warfare agents. Baghdad originally denied having any biological weapons programme.

When the U.N. team arrived it was told that biological activities for military purposes had begun at Salman Pak in mid-1986 and

halted in 1990. The Iraqis admitted having worked on two agents, anthrax and botulinum toxin.

Mr. Kelly said he could not determine the scope of Iraq's biological warfare activities since only one site had so far been inspected. The Iraqis said their research and development team there consisted of 10 people.

But, he added: "They had a capability to use a 150-litre (40-gallon) fermenter. That is capable of producing vast quantities of biological warfare agents and certainly provided a capability to have a limited number of biological weapons."

Before the U.N. team left, the Iraqis handed over biological materials that could be developed as biological warfare agents, incendiary, bacteriological and nuclear.

Mr. Kelly said Iraq had signed, and earlier this year ratified, a 1972 convention banning research, development, production or stockpiling of biological weapons.

The U.N. inspection was carried out under a Security Council resolution that established a special commission to find and stop Iraq's nuclear capability and weapons of mass destruction.

Irqi army officers receive pay hikes

(Agencies)

EVEN IF ALL the remaining Western hostages are released by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, there is little expectation that 11 faces will emerge from Beirut's back alleys. Two of the missing men are believed to be dead.

When British hostage John McCarthy was released last week by Islamic Jihad, he brought with him the first confirmed sighting of British hostage Terry Waite in captivity.

Meanwhile, the United Nations began a food distribution programme among Baghdad's poor on Thursday. Hundreds of black-shawled widows and elderly and disabled people flooded a welfare centre to get their share.

The food distribution took place as the U.N. Security Council voted Thursday in New York to allow Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil to buy food and medicine. Thirty per cent of the wheat will pay war reparations.

Even before the latest pay raises were announced Thursday, army officers were among the highest paid employees in Iraq.

The Defence Ministry's newspaper, Al Qadissiya, said Thursday Tehran will continue efforts to free the Western hostages, but warned the captives cannot be freed until Israel was pressed to free Arab prisoners and a Shiite Muslim cleric.

Tehran Radio reported that Ali Akbar Velayati said in a message to his British counterpart, Douglas Hurd: "The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates it will use its influence to free the hostages."

Mr. Velayati warned that Israel had "created obstacles" to the release of the other hostages.

A key demand of the Lebanese kidnappers is that Israel free Lebanese and Palestinians, including Shiite Muslim cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid.

He was kidnapped by Israel agents from his home in South Lebanon in July 1989 as a bargaining chip.

Israel has said it is willing to free Sheikh Obeid, provided seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon, some since 1982, are released or their remains handed over. And it said it will take no step until it has firm details about the fate of the seven.

Iran has said that demand created "hurdles" to a final resolution of the hostage crisis.

Generals already make at least 1,000 dinars (\$3,000) a month, compared with the average government worker's pay of 160 (\$480). Top generals also get benefits such as cars and cash bonuses.

In impoverished Saddam City, where about half of the capital's estimated four million people live, people lined up to obtain a share of some 50 tonnes of flour furnished by the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP). It is being distributed, with WFP supervision, by Iraqi government agencies.

The government began rationing food about 12 months ago because of the U.N.-mandated economic embargo imposed on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

"The ration is not enough," said a woman dressed in a black robe and shawl, who did not give her name. "I have eight kids."

The woman, whose brown face was tattooed with blue cross-stitch patterns in the style of the bedouin, said her husband had fallen ill and died while serving in the army during the Iran-Iraq war.

Saddam City was known as Al Thawra, or revolution, township until the government upgraded services to the area, largely because so many of its men were martyred in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

The trash-strewn streets of Saddam City have provided an ideal recruiting ground for the army, which provides a way out to uneducated, desperate youths.

The army has undergone demobilisation from about one million to possibly 500,000, but those who remain in service are cared for.

Uncertainty about status of Western hostages

(Agencies)

Molinari's son, Luigi, said this week there has been no official confirmation of his father's death.

The other hostages are Americans Joseph James Cicippio, 60, Alana Steen, 52, and Jennifer Turner, 44, Briton Jack Mann, 77, and Germans Heinrich Struebig, 50, and Thomas Kempner, 29.

Also missing in Lebanon are seven Israeli servicemen who appear to be the linchpin in a prisoner swap being negotiated by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Palestinian guerrilla leader Ahmad Jibril said recently that three of them are alive and four are presumed dead. He did not give a breakdown.

Appeal for U.N. help

About 40 Lebanese, mostly women in veils, staged a sit-in at United Nations offices in Beirut Friday, adding their voices to pleas for an exchange which could free relatives held by Israel or its local allies.

"Perez de Cuellar, help us release our fathers and sons from the prisons of Israel and its collaborators," said one of their banners, appealing to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"The silence of international legality towards our cause is a stain in the heart of humanity," said another.

"Our sons are not terrorists or killers," said a statement from the families handed to Norwegian Lieutenant-Colonel Thor Eid, representative of the nine-nation U.N. peace-keeping force in South Lebanon.

"We urge the world and the countries involved to deal in an equal and balanced manner with the issue of detainees."

Mr. Eid said the message would be passed to the secretary-general.

A tearful woman in tweedies said her brother Ali, 27, had been held in an Israeli prison since 1985 when he was taken from their home in the south and accused of helping guerrillas.

Asked whether she supported freeing the Western hostages in Lebanon, she said: "Awesterner is a human being, but a Lebanese defending his occupied country is treated as if he is not."

She declined to be identified, saying she feared Israeli retaliation.

She said innocent captives should be freed but those held by Israel and its allies were not being given equal priority with Western hostages.

A few mothers said their sons had been kidnapped by the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia and passed on to Israel when the private army disbanded this year.

Aeroflot and El Al sign accord on direct flights

MOSCOW (AP) — The Israeli and Soviet state airlines have agreed to set up a joint venture to fly Jewish immigrants directly to Israel in a move that paves the way for regular commercial flights, an official said Thursday.

Israeli Transport Minister Moshe Katav and Soviet Minister of Civil Aviation Boris Panyukov Wednesday signed an agreement in Moscow between Aeroflot and El Al, said Yosi Ben Dor, press attaché for the Israeli consulate in Moscow.

Currently, El Al flies between Israel and the Soviet Union, chartered by the Israeli Government for hard currency.

The agreement would convert the charters into a joint venture with the aim of increasing the number of flights.

The only other direct flights are operated by semi-private Soviet businesses that fly from the Latvian capital of Riga or the Georgian capital to Tbilisi, Mr. Ben Dor said.

Most Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union go by train or plane to a third country, usually Hungary or Romania, before they are flown to Israel.

Mr. Ben Dor said that it is not known when the flights will begin or from which Soviet cities they will originate. He said the details would be ironed out in negotiations later in Israel.

He said that an original agreement for the joint venture was reached between the two airlines in December 1989, but because of "political reasons" the company did not begin working.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq establishes telephone links with U.S.

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, its telephone system smashed in Gulf war bombing raids, said Friday that it had restored telephone links with the United States. The ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said Iraq's satellite earth station at Al Dejai had been repaired and contact had been made with "the international telecommunications centre" in the United States. "The success of these experiments is a first step and will be followed in a few days by steps to reopen international communications..." it said, quoting a source at the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Petrol bombs hit Istanbul bank branch

ISTANBUL (R) — Petrol bombs thrown at a bank branch and a municipal building in Istanbul early Friday caused damage but no injuries, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blasts at private Yapi Kredi Bank's branch office in Laleli district in the old part of Istanbul and a municipal building in Unkapani on the outskirts of the city. It was not clear whether the bombings were related to Thursday's seventh anniversary of the start of a separatist campaign in the southeast by the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). Previous similar bombings have been claimed by the outlawed group Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left), which said it was behind the killing of two Americans and a score of bombings against Western targets during the Gulf war.

2,600 more Falashas said due in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Army radio said Friday that Israel would fly out some 2,600 black Jews left behind in Ethiopia after its emergency airlift of more than 11,000 to the Jewish state in May. "The 2,600 Jews who remained in Ethiopia will be brought to Israel as immigrants in the coming months. This was agreed today between the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the Ethiopian authorities," the radio reported. Israeli planes ferried the black Jews (Falashas) to Tel Aviv in a 22-hour-long operation.

Egypt to set up consular office in Seoul

SEOUL (R) — Egypt will open a consulate in Seoul, its first official representation in South Korea and an apparent prelude to full diplomatic ties, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. Consul General Mohammad Amin Cholakyan and a staff of four would arrive in Seoul Monday, a spokesman said. Egypt has no diplomatic relations with South Korea and recognises rival North Korea. Seoul opened a consulate in Cairo in 1962.

Lebanon grants amnesty to war criminals

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's cabinet has approved an amnesty for war crimes committed during 15 years of civil strife, setting the stage for rebel General Michel Aoun to leave for asylum in France. Official sources said the decree was issued after heated debate during a three-and-a-half-hour meeting. It must be endorsed by parliament. The government had said it wanted to try Gen. Aoun, who led an 11-month rebellion against President Elias Hrawi, for war crimes. Gen. Aoun took refuge in the French embassy in Beirut after thousands of Lebanese and Syrian troops, backed by Syrian airpower, ended his mutiny last Oct. 13. France is willing to grant him asylum but the government has so far not let him leave.

Panel probes Israeli role in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — A presidential commission has concluded an eight-month inquiry into allegations that Israel's intelligence agency trained Sri Lankan army officers and Sri Lankan rebels at the same time. No findings were disclosed. Supreme Court Judge Sriyantha Wadugoda, the lone member of the commission will submit a report soon to President Ranasinghe Premadasa, officials said. The commission also was assigned to probe allegations that Sri Lankan government officials used World Bank funds given for development projects to buy arms from Israel. The allegations were published by a former Mossad officer, Victor Ostrovsky, in his book "By Way of Deception: The Making And Unmaking of a Mossad Officer." Since Jan. 10, the commission heard testimony from 103 witnesses and compiled 5,000 pages of evidence, in addition to 1,000 pages of documents, said Palith Férando, the senior state counsel. Those who gave evidence included government and opposition members of parliament, senior military and government officials.

Egyptian banks to bail out BCCI affiliate

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian banks, after consultations with the government, will deposit part of their cash holdings to save the Cairo affiliate of the disgraced Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), financial sources said Friday. A Western economist said state-owned had joint-owned banks would deposit 0.5 per cent of their dollar and Egyptian pound holdings of the Bank of Credit and Commerce Misr (BCCM) without interest or below market rates. Al Ahram newspaper Friday quoted an official source as saying the banks had already deposited 0.25 per cent of their holdings, worth about \$60 million, and would place the remainder with BCCI shortly. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said last week that bankers were meeting to discuss contributions after BCCI faced a run on its deposits. BCCM's deposits in its parent BCCI were between \$340 and \$440 million, the agency said. President Hosni Mubarak, worried about possible domestic fall-out if BCCM crashed, called top banking executives on Sunday to discuss the issue. "The president listened to the views of the heads of the banks and their agreement on support," the agency quoted Information Minister Saif Sharif as saying.

After the meeting, the central bank last week appointed Egyptian American Bank Chairman Abdul Ghani Gamal to run BCCM, 49 per cent owned by BCCI and 51 per cent

Senate approves laws on RJ, investment company

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament Thursday approved the joint financial legal committee's decision on the revised Royal Jordanian Law no. 11 for the year 1990, as it was referred to it by the Lower House, except for article two which the Upper House rejected saying it should remain as it was in the provisional law.

Article two provides that the RJ, in pursuit of the means that enable it to achieve its objectives, has the right to borrow funds, in accordance with proper procedures, and to issue loan bonds in the terms and at the interest rates provided by a special regulation.

Commenting on this item, Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suleiman said that the government was serious in converting the RJ into a private sector company. He stressed that the government does not intend to approve any new loans for the RJ.

In another development, the House, which met under the

chairmanship of its speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, approved the Jordanian Investment Corporation Law, as it was referred to it by the Lower House, after lengthy discussions in which Prime Minister Taher Masi took part.

Mrs. Masi noted that the corporation worked in accordance with the government's general investment policy to encourage investments in Jordan.

The law provided for the formation of a corporation board of directors, to be headed by the finance minister.

The board will group the minister of trade and industry, as its vice-chairperson, the planning minister, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, the director general of the General Budget Department, and the director general of the corporation.

The law cancels and supersedes the Pension Fund's Law No. 6 for the year 1976, and provides for transferring all the fund's assets and property, be it moveable or immoveable, to the corporation.

In another development, the

Jordan loses JD 8m in education sector due to Gulf crisis

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has sustained more than JD 8 million losses in the education and higher education sector, as a result of the Gulf crisis, according to a report issued recently.

The report, whose findings were published by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily, said that the loss resulted from the enrolment of some 56,882 students in the primary and secondary cycles of education requiring building a great number of additional schools.

The report said that 42,661 students had enrolled in the primary education and 14,221 joined the secondary education.

To be able to accommodate this huge number of students, there was need to construct 172 school buildings for primary schools and 47 for secondary education.

However, as a quick measure, the Ministry of Education increased the number of students in each class or section, maintained some of the rated schools, which was planning to hand over to their owners, and maintained the double shift school system in some schools.

The report estimated that there was need for the recruitment of 2,187 teachers to cope with the number of students enrolled in the schools.

The report estimated the average salaries to be paid to the new teachers at JD 3,437,964 per annum, calculated at a monthly salary of JD 131 for a university degree holder.

The cost of books for students attending primary education was estimated at JD 661,245, while for students not attending secondary schools, the cost was estimated at JD 279,442. This means that the total cost of school books is JD 940,687.

The report estimated that the cost of providing services, including water, electricity, fuel and telephone, will be about JD 125,904.

New University of Jordan president appointed

UNRWA might issue appeal for help in dealing with returning expatriates

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AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Higher Education has appointed Fawzi Gharabieh as president of the University of Jordan to succeed Mahmoud Al Amri in the post.

According to a report in Al Aqsa daily, Dr. Samra has resigned his post. The newspaper gave no reasons.

Dr. Gharabieh had served as a dean of the Faculty of Economics and later as university vice president for administrative affairs.

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Jordan Times

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A cruel joke

THE "permission" given by the United Nations Security Council for "monitored" sales of Iraqi oil worth \$1.6 billion cannot but be an open violation of the sovereignty of Iraq, a precedent-setting move for the world powers to interfere in a nation's affairs and, above all, a cruel joke against the suffering people of Iraq.

When the American-led coalition fought Iraq out of Kuwait, all hopes were that it was the end of the crusade against Iraq, and international laws and norms will be allowed to take its course to handle the rest of the affair such as war reparations and invasion damages etc. But no, the world powers had to take it up further along unprecedented lines and assume a supervisory role all along and see to it that the Iraqi people are subjected to more and more suffering as if the international community — if indeed that is what the Security Council claims it represents — has a grudge against the women and children of Iraq.

To rule that a country can sell its natural resources but its government cannot be in charge of the proceeds is nothing but robbing the country of its sovereignty. Many Third World countries whose leaders are not in the good books of the world powers may please take note that a precedent has been set that the U.N. can meddle with their internal affairs under the cover of international legitimacy and violate one of the cardinal principles on which the world body was founded — respect for the sovereignty of individual countries.

Surely, the intelligence and brilliance of the world powers which fought Iraq can also produce alternative means to apply pressure on the Iraqi government without having to starve 18 million people?

We in Jordan do not have to undertake any fact-finding mission to reach the conclusion that the Iraqi people are suffering. Living proof of that is already in Amman, where thousands of Iraqis are stranded foodless and homeless. We are living with it. But for purposes of official record, repeated U.N. missions to Iraq, including those headed by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, and dozens of independent agencies have brought back one unmistakable message: Iraqis face starvation unless immediate action is taken to ensure that they get enough food. The finding of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) was that large-scale famine is in the making in Iraq.

It beats us to envisage how the United Nations has opted to overlook the very fact that it is going to be awfully difficult for the world body to collect revenues from Iraqi oil sales and supply food and medicine to the people of Iraq while ensuring that the actual needs of the people are met and that the Iraqi government does not benefit at all. That is of course assuming that the world body does not have a grocer's mind and will not entertain the idea of opening up a supermarket. But come to think of it, the shape of things coming out of the U.N. does resemble a Shylock owning not only a high-priced supermarket but also a misprogrammed cash register.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has drawn the attention of the whole world to the plight of the Jordanian-Palestinian community facing repression in Kuwait and eviction from a land where they had spent their whole life, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. In his meeting with heads of diplomatic missions in Amman Wednesday, the King said that the world community should extend a helping hand to the destitute people and help Jordan cope with the new wave of immigration, the paper added. It said that the eviction of Palestinians coincides with the current drive to establish peace in the Middle East and is seen as a form of pressure on Jordan to accept new terms and conditions considered humiliating to the Arab Nation. Jordan, the paper noted, has repeated that it would not give up any Arab right. It said that it could by no means substitute another party in the peace process and that it would continue to adhere to its principled stands. The paper also noted that the current wave of immigration would not force Jordan to abandon its steadfastness and could not weaken its confidence in the Arab Nation. It is a shameful act on the part of those Arabs taking part in the process of exercising pressure on Jordan, by exploiting the human element, and these Arabs should realize that they cannot achieve their evil designs, the paper added. The paper said that the Kingdom, which witnessed other waves of immigration and other forms of pressure in the past, can and will remain steadfast while giving refuge to the Arab people under all circumstances.

Sawt Al Shaab daily wondered why the world community was silent about the plight of the Jordanian-Palestinian community in Kuwait. The current campaign by the Kuwaiti authorities against the Jordanian-Palestinian community whose members are being evicted from the country and losing their property, their savings and their compensations after years of hard work is in many aspects similar to the ongoing Israeli campaign to drive out the Palestinians from their homeland, the paper stressed. The paper said that Jordan has opened its arms to hundreds of thousands of expatriates and returnees and is shouldering additional burdens, despite its meagre resources, and therefore this country is in need of assistance from the Arab and Islamic nations and from various international organisations. The paper said that Jordan also awaits a meaningful action on the part of the world community to put an end to the Kuwaiti acts of repression against the innocent women and children who are being driven out from their homes. Nations which sent their troops to northern Iraq under the pretext of protecting the human rights of the Kurds, said the paper, should now interfere and find a means to protect the human rights of the Jordanian-Palestinian community.

Arafat can still make the world take notice with one word: No



Yasser Arafat

By Judith Miller

THERE he was again. After what had seemed a long absence, Yasser Arafat's familiar three-day-old stubble and his black-and-white checked head scarf suddenly reappeared last week on the front pages of the world's newspapers and at diplomatic centre stage.

His remarks stunned and frustrated some fellow Palestinians, Arab leaders, and American officials, all of whom had struggled for months to secure the agreement of Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia to convene a Middle East peace conference aimed at resolving the seemingly unsolvable Arab-Israeli conflict.

Palestinians, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declared, would not attend an American-brokered peace conference this October unless Washington asked him to choose the Palestinian delegates and guaranteed that Israel would trade land for peace. Both demands were clearly unrealistic: the first was known to be unacceptable to both the United States and Israel, and the second would be anathema to Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, who has said that he is willing to talk but that he is not willing to trade land for peace.

Mr. Arafat's message seemed clear enough: If he and the PLO were excluded from the planning of the peace process, no Palestinian would attend the meeting. And in that message was an implicit assumption and a warning: Unless the PLO was included, no Arab state should attend a conference aimed at securing land and justice for Palestinians that would be boycotted by the Palestinians.

In threatening to wreck the talks, Mr. Arafat was attempting to demonstrate yet again what Czechoslovakia's President, Vaclav Havel, has called "the power of the powerless" — the ability to say no, the power to deny.

"In effect, what Arafat was saying is, 'I'm important; pay

attention to me,'" said William B. Quandt, a former Carter administration official who helped shape the Camp David peace accords between Israel and Egypt. And Richard W. Murphy, a former Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs in both the Reagan and Bush administrations, agreed. "As discredited as he is in America and among many Arabs, he still has his base among the Palestinians," Mr. Murphy said. "We and the Israelis are fading ourselves if we pretend that he doesn't."

It is easy to see why some Arabs or American policy makers assumed that Mr. Arafat and his organisation could be bypassed. His egregious miscalculation in supporting President Saddam Hussein in the Gulf conflict — only the latest in a series of political errors that surely would have ended the career of a less durable leader — has left his international personal standing, which is inexorably entwined with that of the PLO, at its lowest ebb.

Financially cut off by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, shunned by Egypt and other Arab members of the anti-Iraq coalition, he is also detested by many Palestinians who lost lucrative jobs in Kuwait because of his decision to support Baghdad when it invaded Kuwait. In addition, his leadership is being chal-

lenged in the occupied territories by factions that take a far harder line.

So his remarks seem intended first to shore up his personal position by underscoring what those Palestinians meeting in Israel with Secretary of State James A. Baker have been saying all along: that they have been doing so within the PLO's blessing and would not do so without it.

"Paradoxically," said Rita E. Hauser, an international lawyer and expert on the PLO who heads the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, "Yitzhak Shamir has enabled Arafat to reenter the game by not agreeing to meet with the Palestinians whom Baker has been talking. Shamir's insistence on 'no PLO people' has once again raised the issue of whether there will be a Palestinian delegation at the conference and therefore has enabled Arafat to play a role."

Second, Mr. Arafat's posture of reluctance to permit Palestinians to take part in the talks appears designed to strengthen his credibility among Palestinians, many of whom are deeply sceptical of the Bush administra-

tion's approach. "There is no doubt that Arafat wants a conference," said Hisham Sharabi, a Palestinian professor at Georgetown University and editor of the Institute for Palestine Studies Journal. "But many Palestinians feel that Shamir's conditions are so humiliating his insistence that there will be no exchange of peace for territory so adamant, that they wonder: 'Why bother? Why attend a conference that is tantamount to political surrender?'

Mr. Arafat wants to show these Palestinians that he is not inert or irrelevant, that he is trying to get the most out of whatever leverage he has, in exchange for letting Palestinians participate. Since many within the PLO flatly oppose the conference, Mr. Arafat desperately needs the support of the sceptical. A few concessions might help him win that — if Washington turns out to be in the mood to give him any concessions at all. Third, his remarks are aimed as much at fellow Palestinians as at Washington. Mr. Arafat knows that he must end his parish status among the winners of the Gulf war if he is to survive politically. He un-

doubtedly sees the conference as an occasion to again take his place on the Arab state; in this context, it would make sense for him to set out tough terms for his participation from which he could eventually climb down. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak might eventually receive — which he has refused to do so far — if that would persuade Mr. Arafat to bestow upon the proposed conference the Palestinian imprimatur that only he can give.

Many analysts believe that Mr. Arafat's position is so weak, though, that in the end he will have no choice but to quietly sanction the conference. With virtually unanimous Arab blessing for the gathering, would the PLO dare risk further marginalising itself by obstructing or scuttling it? After all, many Arabs consider this the Palestinians' best chance of ending almost 20 years of Israeli military occupation and saving the territories from being permanently paved over by Israeli settlements.

"Syria and Jordan might well attend a conference even without the blessing of the PLO," said Marvin Feuerwerger, a senior strategic fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a research group that is generally pro-Israel. "While it is true that Hafez Al Assad is sensitive to charges of betraying the Palestinian cause to achieve a separate peace," he said, "I doubt the Syrian president would be happy about letting Arafat, a non-state player whom he despises, veto a gathering he sees as in Syria's best interests."

While most analysts argue that no Arab state could afford to attend a peace conference — even a ceremonial opening — without a "legitimate" Palestinian presence, few think that ultimately Mr. Arafat will continue to say no. He is a shrewd tactician — whatever his deficiencies as a strategist — and he probably understands that, as the shift in Syrian policy reflects, the geographic and political map of the post-cold war world has changed. With communism's global force spent and Iraq destroyed, the old rejectionism times of Middle Eastern politics now have a thinner and more hollow... sound, — The New York Times magazine.



Israeli troops patrolling in occupied East Jerusalem

The Week in Print

THE plight of the Jordanian-Palestinian community in Kuwait and Jordan's stand with regard to this issue as well as the Middle East question and a number of domestic issues in the country were the dominant topics in the Jordanian Arabic dailies of the past week.

The conviction of the thousands of the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates from Kuwait was described by Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist for Al Ra'i daily, as part of the new world order orchestrated by the United States and implemented by Kuwait and other Arab regimes.

As Jordan witnesses an influx of hundreds of thousands of Jordanians and Palestinians returning from Kuwait, the Israeli welcome hundreds of thousands of new immigrants to be settled in Arab lands, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

Tareq Masarweh noted that while the Jordanian and Palestinian citizens returning here are being deprived of their rights and evicted by force from Kuwait, the Jewish immigrants are being welcomed to settle in the occupied Palestinian land as the United States continues to process of settling the Jews and fulfilling the dreams of the world Zionism.

Now that all appeals to the world community to come to the aid of the Palestinians and Jordanians evicted from Kuwait have failed to give any fruitful result, there is urgent need for the government to make moves at the international level, said Ahmad Dababsa in Sawt Al Shaab.

The writer noted that Jordan can not cope with the huge number of immigrants and returnees and can by no means remain silent in the face of repression and injustice exercised by Kuwait.

The paper said that Kuwait is determined to find in the Jordanian and Palestinian community a scapegoat in view of the ongoing eviction of these expatriates from Kuwait, said Taher Al Udwan in Al Dustour. The writer said that the presence of huge numbers of expatriates who had spent a very long time building Kuwait and acquiring extensive experience in development and construction work should prompt the government to find ways of

facilitating their settlement in the country and direct them towards income generating projects.

The writer said that the Ministry of Industry and Trade can take the lead in this concern by directing the expatriates who hold capital towards useful economic activities and thus help them find a decent way of making a living.

Several writers tackled the outcome of the Islamic countries foreign ministers' conference held in Istanbul.

Salamch Ekour, in Sawt Al Shaab, described the conference as serving the purposes of the NATO alliance and the Zionist ambitious designs. The writer said that the conference, which was supposed to discuss matters related and of concern to the Islamic Nation, directed its attention instead to matters that can be of service to the enemies of Muslims.

The conference, acting upon directions from Washington, has decided against lifting an embargo on Iraq and has ignored the cries of women and children in Iraq subjected to atrocious acts by the U.S.-led alliance.

The writer said that the meeting, which was held in the name of Islam, did all it could to serve the objectives of the enemies of the Islamic faith.

The representatives of the Islamic nations who met in Istanbul forgot their faith and forgot their duty to serve an Islamic Nation in desperate need of help and forgot all about the Islamic teachings, said Mohammad Abdul Aziz in Sawt Al Shaab.

The writer said that the Islamic conference had in fact increased rather than relieved the Iraqi people's sufferings and so the conference was a tool in the hand of the United States which is exercising its hostile practices against the Arab and Islamic nations.

The Jordanian press gave ample attention to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the ongoing efforts to convene a peace conference.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that it is regrettable to see that the Arabs, especially the states directly involved in a confrontation with Israel, fail to hold a meeting to coordinate their positions with regard to the coming conference.

Arab countries realise that Israel wants to steal their water and their lands and wants the Arabs to remain in a weak state, unable to stand up to its ambitions designs, and yet they are unable to hold a single meeting to confront these issues, the paper noted.

The Arab states are also impotent in the face of the U.S.-Soviet conspiracy of settling Soviet Jews on Arab land and they are going to the peace conference empty handed, the paper said.

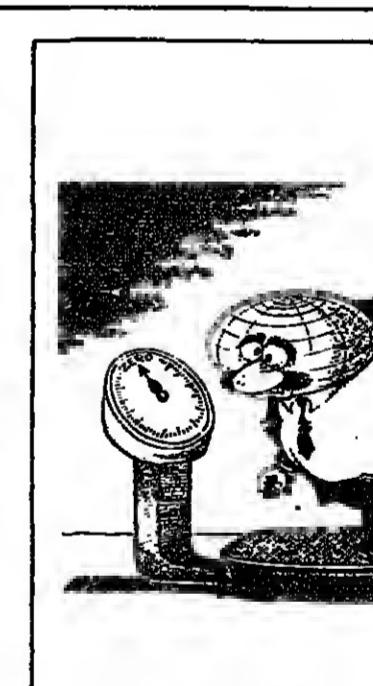
A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said it was shameful that some Arabs plan to sit and talk with Moshe Arens at a time when they continue to shun any meeting with an Iraqi minister, Mazen Al Saket said that it is shameful that the Arab League can not meet unless it is given the order by James Baker. What we demand from the Arabs is not a meeting for war against Israel, rather a meeting to handle Arab-Arab issues in preparation for the coming meeting with Israel, the writer said.

His views were backed by Fahd Al Fanek in Al Ra'i daily who said that Jordan is not against an Arab-Israeli conference but it is rather seeking a concerted stand on the part of the Arab side to the coming negotiations.

The writer said that it is unreasonable for the Arabs to open talks to reach an understanding with the Israelis when they can find no way of reaching an understanding among themselves.

In the midst of talk about a peace conference reports continue to bring us news about Israel's continued drive to build settlements on the occupied Palestinians land with the help of Washington and Moscow.

The Jordanian press urged the government to tackle this urgent issue and stop further injustices.



M. Kahl

Salah Abdul Samad in Al Ra'i daily who said that no one expects the landlords to offer their houses for free, but at least they should offer sympathy to the returnees through offering their homes for reasonable rent.

Mohammad Daoudieh in Al Dustour said that the local landlords and home owners are trying to exploit the expatriates and the Iraqis now living in the country. He urged the government to continue to pump funds to finance the settlement programme, the writer said.

A number of writers tackled the question of the soaring cost of renting homes in Jordan in the wake of the influx of the expatriates.

Ahmad Al Misleh in Al Ra'i daily said that the landlords are in a race against time in this mad and feverish rush to let homes at exorbitant rents, totally disregarding the fact that the expatriates are now in need.

The writer urged the government to tackle this urgent issue and stop further injustices.

His views were backed by

King: Palestinians will solve problem over representation

(Continued from page 1)

and Afghans, had confessed to planning a series of attacks against public and financial institutions.

Following major excerpts from His Majesty King Hussein's comments in the interview with Reuter and Visions - A transcript of the interview was made available to the Jordan Times.

In answer to a question on the visit by a U.S. delegation to Jordan and the nature of talks between the two sides, the King said:

"I don't think we are searching for a written agreement... Jordan made it very clear that it will participate in the peace process it started as we are in constant touch. There are many issues that are relatively unclear. The progress... the tremendous attempts of all to move as rapidly as possible certainly calls on us to work hard and day having asked for so many years to work for something and to do whatever we can to contribute to a comprehensive and lasting peace in this region."

"I think the dialogue between us and Washington at this stage was the subject of the visit of the U.S. team. It was related to our most recent discussion with Baker and with regard to the American position as I have worked with it and understood it over so many years..."

"I believe that this has come together (progress) extremely rapidly and certainly more in terms of our timetable on our domestic scene also rapidly from free elections, democratization, process leading to acceptance of the national charter, pluralism and political parties. I am willing to do some extra work at this by calling people from Jordanian political life as they were represented in the country to explain every step we make and to discuss the development that happens in the absence of political parties that we certainly hoped would have been there by now. And

by now I mean of the process itself we are moving rapidly and the visit of Baker and many friends to the area have been extremely constructive and have given us an indication that the U.S. is very anxious to see progress on this matter and certainly the secretary shares this view and this stems from the feeling that the U.S. can contribute to the solution of this problem and has greater responsibility now in this new world order and a greater potential to do so than in the past when this problem was a part of the cold war or whatever you may call it in the past. The world of yesterday...

The Palestinian dimension is a very important one and we agree that only they themselves can select a delegation which will represent them and, certainly starting with the first phase, which is that of territories occupied in 67. We have no preference if they went on their own or otherwise. We have offered the umbrella under which a Jordanian delegation would work alongside the Palestinian delegation; they dealing with the Palestinian-Israeli dimension and we working with them on affairs that affect Jordan, obviously separately, in regard to Jordan and Palestine and the whole region when we look at water and problems that exist there.

Thirdly within the context of the regional dimension which is also opening up and which I think is an important development because of the participation of countries not immediately concerned — the GCC and others.

Or has a decision been taken by Jordan on whether it will participate if the Palestinians don't?

I have a feeling that the Palestinians will go and the Palestinians will go and I believe that there is a lot of soul searching. Let us speak very clearly, I can't see any leadership in these extremely difficult and critical times when people are affected and people are suffering. We have seen, God knows, here and enough from the developments in the region and in

the occupied territories, that people can procrastinate or hang on to old cliches and taboos when there is really such a problem of such magnitude that needs to be addressed. So I hope there won't be such problems and things will move.

Q: What advice would you give the PLO chairman when he visits Jordan?

A: Well he is expected. Always he has been welcome to come to Jordan whenever he chose but I believe that matters are moving so rapidly that there is obviously need for such a visit or contacts to be more intense in the time ahead. I won't presume to give anyone advice. We are offering the opportunity of an umbrella if they choose, and I mean the Palestinian people within the Palestinian context, who decide what they wish for a delegation to join us under that arrangement.

Q: What would result from such communications?

A: May be the clarifications of many unclear areas. Much has happened already but there are still some areas that need to be clarified. Coordination on the Arab side has not been as good as it could have been but we are working on that as well.

Q: Does Your Majesty have any firm plans to visit Egypt or Syria?

A: Possibly Syria in the next few days if an opportunity arises, we have no plans at the moment to visit Egypt, but I have sought to open the way regardless of any personal feelings that might have had as a result of the trauma of us passed through over the past year to suggest that it is time and it is needed for our people at least to coordinate and compare notes and work together for the attainment of a just and honourable peace the fulfillment of a life-long dream not for us but for generations to come of peace and security in this entire region.

I have been in touch with the Syrian leadership throughout the many years that have passed. It is not new. I visited Syria during the period that has passed. I hope that President

Assad will come to visit us in the near future but this time it is my turn again to visit. I have had contact with him today.

Q: Did Assad issue an invitation to you today?

A: He always does and I always do and I hope that it will materialize in the next few days. We are always very frank and very open and we have known each other for many many years and regardless of whether we agree or disagree we kept in touch. Syria took a similar position on the process and on the conference for peace in this region. Some people thought that maybe Syria would be negative and I continued to say that I believe that was not the case, especially after a visit I made during that period and discussions I had with President Assad. I am very happy to see that the rest of developments have taken place.

Q: How will Jordan cope with its immediate problems i.e. the influx of Palestinians from the Gulf?

A: With God's help and the will of the people of Jordan and our determination to keep our heads high and act as human beings and as civilized people. After all they are our people and they are coming back, many of them hoping to transit to the occupied territories and are doing so. Many are facing a real problem because they have the right to return to Gaza but are not permitted to go through Egypt. So if we can secure somehow a transit opportunity for them to get back home through Jordan we will look at that again and see what we could do. Many are coming by air.

Now conditions are terrible in terms of the long nightmare they have endured in terms of their conditions, in terms of what they are coming out with, the suffering in terms of the physical signs of inhuman treatment they were subjected to. Some are apparently on the Iraq-Kuwait border where they have been thrown out, and we have sent a team down there to see who they are and bring them

back home as rapidly as we can. The number has exceeded 270,000 so far and add to that the fact that we have many Iraqis in Jordan who are also in very difficult conditions, seeking medical help, seeking a change, seeking an opportunity for life...

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more so the moral weight of the world is needed because after all is this what the world stood for? We were with the world against the occupation of Kuwait and its annexation. We were with the world for peaceful settlement and the renewal of the process which began on Aug. 2 last year and we were with the world with regard to all Security Council resolutions and respect for them.

Yet we have suffered, I believe, for standing for our principles and our ideals and for peace, against human suffering, against damage to our environment and the world over, against all the losses that occurred. This is in the past but this country and this people should not continue to suffer. I do not think that anyone would be proud to say that that was what he stood for.

My appeal was to our friends of the world to take another look and the hope that the media which focused its attention on what was happening throughout the year should not forget to keep an eye on what is happening as well.

Q: Are you worried that it will affect Gulf states' relations with Jordan?

A: I am talking about a humanitarian problem of such a magnitude and of such dimensions that needs to be addressed. I am shocked and I am angry and I am anxious. And we're talking about a people who began returning home since Iraqis began their invasion and this continues to this day.

A: I remember we used to get rightfully upset whenever Israel had expelled Palestinians from their homes and their land... and (now) to see Palestinians and Jordanians being treated in this way! They helped build everything that is there and gave such services and parts of their lives and their efforts is really a sad chapter in the history of this region.

Q: Does Your Majesty regret your stand during the Gulf crisis?

A: I believe we produced a white paper recently which has only the bare outline of what happened because we learned from our history in

the forties, early forties, in the fifties. I think no country did for Palestine or for Palestinian brethren more than Jordan did with its limited resources and was very clear in its position against the use of force by any Arab state against another.

I think the crisis developed and developed and none of us would be able to claim that we know all the facts and in the position I was in as the head of the Arab Cooperation Council for that year, second year of its life, it included Egypt, Yemen, Jordan and Iraq. There are ties to Iraq and Kuwait and the Gulf. I had to act and I believe till this day that there might have been a possibility of dealing with this problem within Arab context and reversing events peacefully.

Had I joined those who condemned and spoke openly, although that was very clear in our statements, we would have lost our chance to play a role if we were permitted to play it.

Perez de Cuellar 'very hopeful'

(Continued from page 1)

tion on the Israeli missing in Lebanon during his meeting with Mr. Perez de Cuellar in Geneva Wednesday.

In an earlier Israel Radio interview Friday, Mr. Lubrani reiterated that Israel is ready to make "gestures" in exchange for information on the seven missing Israeli soldiers.

Mr. Lubrani's remarks lent more credibility to reports that Israel is willing to free some Arab detainees in exchange for information, even before Israeli soldiers are released.

Asked specifically about a detainees-for-information swap, Mr. Lubrani responded: "We said that after we receive this information, Israel will do everything it can... among other things, it will also be ready to make gestures."

Mideast parley could be a chess game for players

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Americans want to show the world that they are serious about peace in the Middle East in the post-Gulf war era. Israel, for its part, hopes to gain time. And the Arabs will pay the price for what those two countries want to do if the Arab World continues to remain in a state of disarray. This is the expert opinion of veteran Egyptian journalist, Philippe Gellab, who is currently visiting Jordan to look at and assess how far the U.S.-led peace process has reached.

"The Arab World has never been so bewildered, weak and disoriented in its history as it is today," asserted Mr. Gellab, chief editor of Cairo's Al Ahali daily, organ of the opposition Progressive Nationalist Unionist Party. "Instead of going to negotiations with Israel from a position of strength, the Arabs have only disunity and dismemberment to show as their assets now," he maintained.

According to Mr. Gellab, the Arabs will get nowhere through the peace conference planned by the U.S. if only because the entire approach to the issues at stake is wrong. "After invoking international legitimacy and United Nations resolutions to justify their war against Iraq, and rejecting the Kuwait-Palestine linkage, the U.S. is now trying to show the world that it was serious when it said (during the Gulf

crisis) that the issue of Palestine would be taken up after punishing the aggressor in the Gulf," Mr. Gellab told the Jordan Times in an interview. "They want to show they have no double standards and are taking an even-handed approach to all issues."

"Instead of applying the same principles and approach to Israel as they did in the case of Iraq, the Americans are now talking about 'confidence-building' measures among the Arabs and Israel," he said. "There is the Security Council and there are the relevant resolutions which are very clear on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. Why can't they seek to enforce the resolutions without having to appease Israel?" he asked.

As usual, Israel is stalling for time," said Mr. Gellab, who is also a columnist for Rose Al Yousef, one of the oldest Egyptian magazines. Even if the negotiations produce substance, "what are the Arabs going to get out of it? Even less than what was envisaged in the Camp David agreements?" However, Mr. Gellab said, "it is very unlikely that the negotiations would lead to separate agreements between Israel and its neighbours without properly addressing the Palestinian problem. There is no doubt that the central issue, for all Arabs concerned, is the Palestinian problem, and I do not see a situation where any of the Arab parties involved would drop the Palestinian cause and go ahead with separate peace accords with Israel."

Mr. Gellab, who has been working for other Egyptian newspapers such as Al Akhbar, Al Joumhouriyah and Al Messa before he assumed the editorship of the outspoken Al Ahali two years ago, noted that his Progressive Nationalist Unionist Party — which now has five seats in the Egyptian parliament — fiercely opposed the Camp David agreements since they did not offer an all-embracing solution to the entire Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Gellab maintained that "Israel's obstinate attitude will undermine all serious negotiations

at the proposed peace conference." He expects "repeated adjournments of negotiations leading to a prolonged process, which will give Israel the time it needs to further consolidate its position."

"It will become a vicious circle taking us nowhere," he said.

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For any peace talks to succeed to the point where Arab rights are secured, "there has to be a unified and coordinated Arab stand based on a position of strength," he said. "And that is missing today in the Arab World."

Isn't it ironic that the Arab states have everything individually and nothing collectively?" he asked. The first step towards joint Arab action, Mr. Gellab asserted, is settling the differences caused by

you put it together the net value of the write-off is not much," he said, describing creditors' behaviour towards Egypt as "similar to that of the mafia."

Egypt has "paid much more in interest" on the \$7.5 billion military debts that were written off by the U.S., according to Mr. Gellab. He said Egyptian-Israeli relations were never cordial despite the Camp David agreement and that he expected the situation to continue although Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy visited Egypt last month.

Simultaneously, there have to be immediate moves towards reestablishing contacts on the popular level as well as official level with Iraq," he said. "These have to be done within a framework of Arab political and economic integration — an objective which has eluded the Arab World for decades."

Mr. Gellab, who delivered a lecture entitled "The Arabs after the Gulf Catastrophe" at the Shomo Foundation Monday evening, said Egypt's image was "totally damaged" since "what (Cairo) did was to legitimise America's illegal actions against Iraq."

According to Mr. Gellab, the financial gains that Egypt secured for its leading anti-Iraq role do not cover the actual losses of the country resulting from the Gulf crisis.

Two million Egyptians lost their jobs, exports suffered badly and expatriate remittances shrunk," he said. "Tourism came to a standstill. The overall loss of the country was much more than what Egypt got in terms of direct financial assistance from the Gulf states and Europe."

Mr. Gellab ridiculed the partial debt write-off that Europe has offered to Egypt. "They will cancel 15 per cent in the first year, and another 15 per cent after assessing the performance of the economy in one year, and another 20 per cent after further study," he pointed out.

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Sports

Puerto Rico beats U.S. in Pan Am basketball

HAVANA (AP) — The U.S. men's amateur basketball team is a loser again, and this time there's no tomorrow.

The Americans lost 73-68 to Puerto Rico in semifinals of the Pan American Games tournament Thursday night, extending their string of losses in major international tournaments to five.

The next time the team goes in battle in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, though, the gun will be fully loaded. No more 19-year-old college players, no more pink cheeks and bony elbows, no more baggy trunks and pimplies.

Next time, the team will have NBA players with mature beards, brawny shoulders and jump shots that miss only with the hand of another NBA player raised in opposition.

"When they bring in the NBA, everybody will be fighting for second place on down. It'll be no contest once these guys start playing," Puerto Rico coach Ray Dalmat said.

Dalmat's team had eight former U.S. college players on the roster, three of whom now play professionally in Spain and two of whom used to play in the NBA. And he recognised this as his last, best chance to beat the United States.

That realisation does not dawn altogether happily upon the members of this U.S. team. Gold was their aim, and they missed. Now, they have to play Cuba for a bronze medal Saturday. Mexico beat Cuba 93-87 in the other semifinal and will meet Puerto Rico for the gold.

"People back home are just going to say, 'let's get Jordan and Johnson out there and bunch of 30-year-old guys, and let's beat up somebody,'" said Christian Laettner. "That's fine with me if that's what they want, but I don't think that's what this is all about."

With just three days left in the games, the United States held a commanding lead of 307-234 over Cuba in total medals but still trailed in golds 118-115.

America's baseball team was expected to return to action Friday afternoon with a shot at

adding to the medal count. But first it will have to do what the basketball team couldn't — beat Puerto Rico. Cuba plays the Dominican Republic in the other semifinal.

"We're ready to get this thing going and get it over with and hopefully come back with a nice medal," U.S. coach Ron Polk said.

The U.S. team beat Puerto Rico 10-3 last Saturday, but the Puerto Ricans have won three in a row since.

The United States had only four of 12 fighters alive in the boxing tournament after two fights Thursday night. Kenny Friday, at 29 the oldest man on the U.S. team, fought his way into a gold-medal match Sunday by beating Arnulfo Castillo of Mexico in the 125-pound (57-kilogramme) division. The other American, Michael Demoss, lost a decision to Chris Johnson of Canada in the 165-pound (75-kilogramme) division).

Friday will meet Arnaldo Mesa of Cuba in Sunday's finals.

"He's got a good job, but it doesn't seem like he punches very hard," Friday said. "So we're going to see if we can work inside on him."

While the United States was looking to add to its medal count, Peru had one taken away. Pedro Garcia, a silver medal-winning shooter, Thursday was named as the third athlete of the games disqualified for taking banned substances.

Garcia's tests showed traces of the drug propranolol, a medication that slows the heartbeat and could help a shooter improve his aim.

Not since the 1986 World Championships has a U.S. basketball team come away with a gold medal in major international event. Since that time, the Americans have come up short in the 1987 Pan American Games, the 1988 Olympics, and the 1990 Goodwill Games and World Championships.

Experience, size and the absence of U.S. swingman Jim Jackson, who had been averaging 18 points, were the determining factors for the Puerto Ricans on

Thursday night.

A bone scan Tuesday revealed that Jackson had a hairline fracture in his left foot, and doctors decided Wednesday to immobilise the foot in a cast. Jackson said he sustained the fracture as long ago as April in tryouts for the team.

"Jimmy was averaging 18 points, so it was a factor, but who knows how much," U.S. coach Gene Keady said.

The U.S. team led 37-29 at halftime and took a 10-point lead on a jumper by Anthony Bennett with 17:47 left in the second half. It was then that things started to unravel.

Trailing 49-41, Puerto Rico went on a 9-2 run to trail 51-50 with 10:06 left. Centre Jose Ortiz, who played briefly with Utah of the NBA, started the run with a three-point play. Puerto Rico took its first lead of the second 57-55, on a 3-pointer by Edwin Pellet and put away the Americans by holding them scoreless for a four-minute stretch that ended with 48 seconds to play and Puerto Rico leading 71-64.

"In the second half, their big guys had the edge, and that hurt us," U.S. coach Gene Keady said. "We had the opportunity and didn't use it. We got beat. Puerto Rico is a little more used to international play. I hoped that wouldn't hurt us in the second half, but it did."

For his players, and their type,

Keady said it was a sad day because now the NBA players take over, and when they do, "it won't be any contest."

In boxing, eight Canadians already have made the finals, with three more fighting Friday night. No more U.S. boxers fight until the finals.

Patrice Brooks already boxed his way into the J32-pound finals, while two other U.S. fighters got in through the backdoor.

Heavyweight Shannon Briggs drew a bye into the heavyweight finals, where he'll meet Felix Savon of Cuba, and Steve Johnsson earned a spot at 139 pounds (63 kilograms) when his semi-final opponent, Luis Basilia of Brazil, broke his finger.

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Jordan hopes for good results at Olympic basketball preliminaries

By Ahmed Ismail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Despite the two recent upsets of the Jordanian national team against the Iraqis, the Jordanian Basketball Federation (JBF) was optimistic that it would get remarkable results in the Olympic Asian preliminaries to be held in Japan on Aug. 27.

Ismail Ammari, the JBF secretary general, told the Jordan Times, that the Jordanian Team, due to play in Group B, also including South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Sri Lanka, is capable of qualifying to the second round if they rank second in Group B.

If the Jordanian team finishes second, it is expected to meet North Korea and China on Aug. 28 and 29, if these teams qualify for the second round.

If Jordan tops Group B, it is expected to play the same teams but will enjoy more of a break between games.

bria, Singapore and Sri Lanka. The only obstacle will be the South Korean team, who beat the Jordanian team 98-94 in the 1986 Asian Games held in Seoul.

Mr. Ammari said that the Jordanian team has to play a series of warm up matches before leaving for Japan. "Nevertheless, they can qualify for the second round if they rank second in Group D.

He said the JBF has sent the final list of the national team to the Asian federation.

The team is composed of Murad Barakat, Hiba Barakat, Nasir Bushnaq, Samir Murgus, Yousef Zagloul, Marwan Ma'tug, Jihad Sibla, Walid Badran, Ramiz Hamouda, Marwan Al Saidi and Abdul Latif Abu Qura.

Seles, Sabatini advance in Los Angeles

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (AP) — Monica Seles and Gabriela Sabatini continued toward an anticipated showdown, each decisively winning third-round matches in the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles women's tournament.

Seles, the top seed who is ranked No. 1 in the world, overpowered Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-4, 6-1. Sabatini, the No. 2 seed from Argentina who begins defence of her U.S. Open championship later this month, breezed past Debbie Grahams 6-3, 6-1.

For his players, and their type,

Keady said it was a sad day because now the NBA players take over, and when they do, "it won't be any contest."

In boxing, eight Canadians already have made the finals, with three more fighting Friday night. No more U.S. boxers fight until the finals.

Patrice Brooks already boxed his way into the J32-pound finals, while two other U.S. fighters got in through the backdoor.

Heavyweight Shannon Briggs drew a bye into the heavyweight finals, where he'll meet Felix Savon of Cuba, and Steve Johnsson earned a spot at 139 pounds (63 kilograms) when his semi-final opponent, Luis Basilia of Brazil, broke his finger.

For his players, and their type,

Keady said it was a sad day because now the NBA players take over, and when they do, "it won't be any contest."

Not since the 1986 World Championships has a U.S. basketball team come away with a gold medal in major international event. Since that time, the Americans have come up short in the 1987 Pan American Games, the 1988 Olympics, and the 1990 Goodwill Games and World Championships.

Experience, size and the absence of U.S. swingman Jim Jackson, who had been averaging 18 points, were the determining factors for the Puerto Ricans on

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the tourney's No. 3 seed, had little trouble beating Pascale Paradis-Mangon of France 6-1, 6-3. Sanchez Vicario lost only one point on her serve in the first set and had her serve broken only once, that in the second set.

She will meet sixth-seeded Helena Sukova Friday.

"It'll be the first time I play Helena," Sanchez Vicario said. "We are doubles partners this week and I know she will come into the net."

Sukova, of Czechoslovakia, rallied for 6-7 (7-4), 6-2, 6-2

victory over 11th-seeded Mary Pierce of France.

In other third-round action, Mercedes Paz of Argentina beat seventh-seeded Amy Frazier 3-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1; eighth-seeded Lori McNeil eliminated 15th-seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-7 (7-5), 6-0, 6-1; Kimiko Date of Japan beat 10th-seeded Yau Basuki of Indonesia 6-2, 6-2, and Jo Durie of Britain defeated Gretchen Mager 6-3, 6-4.

In the quarterfinals at the Manhattan Country Club, Seles meets Paz, Sabatini faces McNeil and Date faces Durie.

Germans set cycling record

STUTTGART, Germany (AP) — Germany's 4,000-metre amateur pursuit team set a world record at the World Cycling Championships Friday amid reports of two Australian medalists testing positive for drugs.

Michael Gloeckner, Jens Lehmann, Stefan Steinweg and Andreas Walzer finished in four minutes, 8.06 seconds in the qualifications, lowering the mark by 2.817 seconds set by the Soviet Union in 1989.

Lehmann beat Gloeckner in the individual pursuit event on Wednesday.

Australia finished with the second best time in 4:11.47 followed by Denmark (4:13.56), and the Soviet Union (4:13.62).

France, Czechoslovakia, New Zealand and the Netherlands, also qualified for the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, reports circulated of two positive tests involving two professional medalists from the same country although no official announcement has been made.

However, a cycling official said that Australian Stephen Pate, a bronze medalist in the professional sprint event, failed his initial test.

Werner Goehner, a vice president of the International Cycling Union (UCI), said Friday that Pate tested positive after taking third in Wednesday's final which was won by another Australian, Carey Hall.

Goechner had no comment on Hall.

Hallinga outsprinted Felicia Ballanger of France in the semi-finals and then edged Paraskevina Young in the final, winning the second heat in a photo finish.

In the final, Hallinga rode smartly in both heats and won both with a small but clear edge with times of 11.91 and 12.08 seconds.

The German men, meanwhile, continued their domination of the track events, scoring another ½ finish as Jens Fielder beat defending champion Bill Hack for the gold in the amateur sprint.

Hallinga, better known as an Olympic speed skater, beat Anette Neumann of Germany, who earned the silver, while Connie Paraskevina-Young of the United States, a four-time champion and defending champion, settled for the bronze.

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In the final, Hallinga rode smartly in both heats and won both with a small but clear edge with times of 11.91 and 12.08 seconds.

"It's difficult to find words to express what this victory means to me," Hallinga said. "My feelings are still too strong."

Mr. Ammari said that Japan and China will be the favourite teams in the preliminaries because of their talent and potential.

He said most predictions centred on China and the Philippines to qualify from Group A. Korea and Jordan from Group B, North Korea and Taiwan from Group C and Japan and Iran from Group D.

He said the JBF has sent the final list of the national team to the Asian federation.

The team is composed of

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He said most predictions centred on China

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
		In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	New York Close Date 14/8/91	Tokyo Close Date 15/8/91			
Sterling Pound	1.6855	1.6871			
Deutsche Mark	1.1313	1.1378			
Swiss Franc	1.5230	1.5207			
French Franc	5.9131	5.9180 **			
Japanese Yen	136.73	146.50			
European Currency Unit	1.1800	1.1792 **			
* USD Per STG ** European Opening at 1000 a.m. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 15/8/1991					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.56	5.68		
Sterling Pound	10.81	10.81	10.62		
Deutsche Mark	9.18	9.21	9.37		
Swiss Franc	7.75	7.81	7.75		
French Franc	9.37	9.34	9.62		
Japanese Yen	7.74	7.31	7.06		
European Currency Unit	9.04	9.43	10.00		
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Previous Metals Date: 15/8/1991					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	357.75	6.90	Silver	3.96	.096
* 21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 15/8/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.684	.690			
Sterling Pound	1.1594	1.1656			
Deutsche Mark	.1956	.1974			
Swiss Franc	.4524	.4547			
French Franc	.1163	.1158			
Japanese Yen	.5032	.5053			
Dutch Guilder	.1509	.1527			
Swedish Krona	.1090	.1095			
Italian Lira*	.0528	.0531			
Belgian Franc	.01923	.01933			
* Per 100					
Other Currencies Date: 15/8/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8000			
Lebanese Lira*	.0750	.0770			
Saudi Riyal	.1830	.1836			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	.1862	.1870			
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2200			
Omani Riyal	1.7450	1.7600			
UAE Dirham	.1862	.1870			
Greek Drachma*	.3550	.3650			
Cypriot Pound	.4250	.4450			
* Per 100					
CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	13/8/1991 Close	14/8/1991 Close			
All-Share	108.94	109.15			
Banking Sector	102.80	103.01			
Insurance Sector	118.71	118.75			
Industry Sector	115.28	115.46			
Services Sector	126.97	127.38			

December 31, 1990 - 1991

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	£ 6725/35	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1438/43	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
	1.7470/80	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
	1.9700/10	French francs	Italian lire
	1.5320/27	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
	36.01/05	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
	5.9400/50	U.S. dollars	
	1309/1310		
	136.80/90		
	6.3525/75		
	6.8360/10		
	6.7560/10		
One ounce of gold	357.25/37.75		

Cinema Tel: 677420 CONCORD

AMERICAN RISCHIO

Show: 3:30, 6:45, 10:30 p.m.

POLICE ACADEMY "6"

Show: 5:15, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571 NIJOUN

To Be Opened Soon
Nabil Mashini
Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 10:30 p.m.

Blockade on Iraq hinders growth Jordanian industries slowly weather Gulf war fallout

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian industries are slowly recovering from the fallout of the Gulf crisis, but market analysts and businessmen say, as long as the international trade embargo on Iraq remains in place in its present form of enforcement the path towards recovery will be slow.

While some sectors, including the potash and cement industries, registered highly positive results during the year, others, by and large, suffered badly during the last five months of 1990, following the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Market analysts point that expansion projects under study or implementation by some of the Jordanian industries cannot be considered as part of the natural growth during or after the Gulf crisis since most of them have been planned years ago and suspended when the economy was hard hit by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The phosphates sector — which depends heavily on the relative edge it enjoys in freight costs to Asian and Far Eastern countries over North African competitors — saw a decline of \$65.8 million in net profits as a result of difficulties posed by the enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq.

However, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company is pressing ahead with plans to set up fertiliser plants in collaboration with Japanese and Indian firms.

Wood industries — mostly furniture manufacturers — are expanding their businesses. This is attributed to the high cost of imported furniture and

innovative ideas by local manufacturers.

Industries planning expansion include the Arab Potash Company, the Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Company, and the Jordan Glass Industries Company, but these proposals have been in the pipeline for several years and were frozen as the impact of the Gulf crisis took its toll on the Jordanian economy.

Amman Chamber of Industry Director-General Mohammad Halaika was recently quoted as saying that the good results registered by some Jordanian companies were mostly related to their activities prior to August 1990 and that they would have done much better had the situation remained normal for the rest of the year.

In general, according to Ali Dajani, senior advisor to the Chamber of Industry, the losses suffered by some industries by far outweigh the gains registered by others.

Dr. Dajani cited as an indicator the gradual drop in the industrial production index to 121 points in February 1991 from 209 points in August 1990.

However, he added, the sector has reversed course as indicated by the rise in the index to 148 points in April 1991. "The industrial sector is indeed reviving and this is a good step."

At the same time, as long as Jordanian industries have to suffer from the delays and extra (transhipment and insurance) costs caused by the naval blockade at Aqaba, the recovery rate will be slow, Dr. Dajani told the Jordan Times.

Bankers say that importers were resorting to higher amounts of imports to build stocks, and thus the relatively

high level of loans taken from banks by industrial importers.

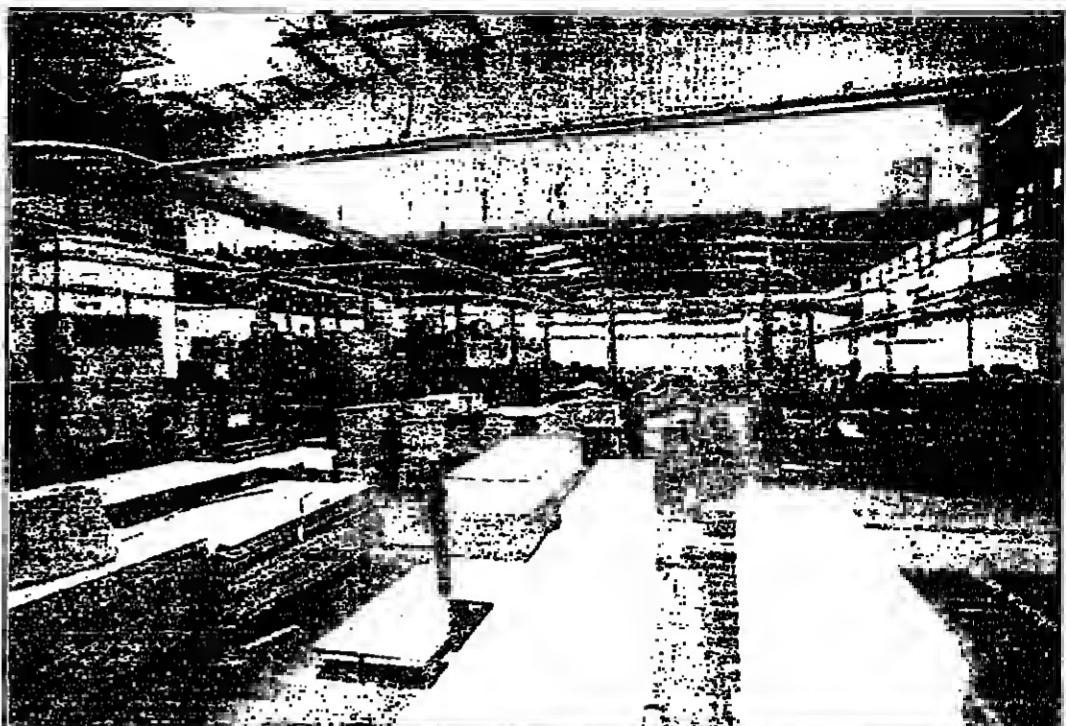
"Importers have found that it is relatively cheaper and better in terms of avoiding delays in delivery to build stocks of raw material in Jordan," said a prominent banker.

Senior officials as well as analysts believe that the overall Jordanian exports will be at the same level, if not higher than that of 1990 — JD 706 million.

Food and pharmaceutical industries catering to the needs of the Iraqi market are doing well and their exports will rise considerably once Iraq is given access to its frozen funds abroad, businessmen point out.

Pharmaceuticals are also expected to increase their volume of exports to other Arab markets as well as some European countries.

Nearly 75 new companies with a capital of over JD 9 million have been registered in



Jordanian wood industries are expanding their business as a result of rising prices of imported furniture and their own innovative ideas (File photo).

way to the financial market, either in the form of portfolio investments or venture capital.

"It is too early to judge what form these investments will take, but it is sure that a good part of these funds will be available in Jordan for those with creative ideas to tap," said an economic expert.

Iliescu promulgates privatisation law

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian President Ion Iliescu promulgated a privatisation law Thursday seen as the cornerstone of government reforms to end four decades of communist-style economy.

The law will be privatised by the government piecemeal through public auctions, direct sell-offs and joint ventures. Western analysts consider the law one of the most ambitious privatisation projects among east Europe's new democracies, which are struggling with the transition to a market economy since their communist regimes were overthrown in 1989.

The privatisation law covers 6,000 Romanian commercial firms, and 17 million adult Romanians will be able to become shareholders," Mr. Iliescu said. He said the National Privatisation Agency would select 30 companies to go first through the litmus test of privatisation.

Trade and tourism could take the lead. "In approximately six months there will be more state-owned trade firms," a trade and tourism ministry spokesman told Romanian television.

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August 24 — Grades 9 - 12

August 25 — Grades 5 - 8

August 26 — Grades KG - 4

Classes will begin in the new building in Swiflyeh for this scholastic year.

Cinema Tel: 634144 PHILADELPHIA

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Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625155 RAINBOW



P.V. Narasimha Rao

Indian premier calls for end to separatism

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has called on separatist rebels in the state of Punjab and Kashmir to eschew violence and pledged to work with them to resolve their grievances.

Meanwhile, paramilitary policemen killed at least 20 people in a daylong gun battle Thursday with Muslim militants in the Kashmir town of Sopore, news reports said.

General strikes were called in Kashmir and Punjab Thursday. Muslim militants have called general strikes on Aug. 15 every year since the long-simmering separatist movement gained popular support.

The prime minister marked the anniversary with a speech that offered no promises of amnesty to the rebels. But his remarks, given under tight security, were a departure from the usual hard line followed by the government.

They also spelled out for the first time the course the 55-day-old government plans to follow in tackling the insurrections launched by religious minorities.

"I want to make it clear, nothing will be gained by terrorism," Mr. Rao said after unfurling the national flag on the entrance to the 16-century red fort in the heart of the capital.

The rebels "can never realise their objectives in this way," he said. "Let them come forward, we can all find a solution. There is no problem to which a solution cannot be found."

In Punjab, a rich farming state, at least 3,750 people have been killed this year in a relentless war by Sikh rebels to form an independent homeland. The rebels have been active since 1982.

At least 2,500 have died since Muslim separatists in the Kashmir Valley began fighting for independence in 1990.

Indian news agencies said 10 more people were killed since Wednesday night in Kashmir. Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted state government officials as saying that all the 20 people killed in Sopore were militants. The report could not be independently confirmed.

The news agency said one policeman was killed and eight others were injured in the gun battle in Sopore, 55 kilometres northwest of Srinagar, the centre of the secessionist movement.

PTI said security forces killed four militants late Wednesday in Arampora near Sopore. Three more militants and two civilians were killed in separate incidents Wednesday and Thursday, the report said. It did not give details.

PTI and United News of India (UNI) news agency said normal life was badly hit by the general strike. They did not elaborate.

Mr. Rao accused neighbouring Pakistan of supporting the rebels, a charge often levelled by New Delhi.

Islamabad had denied the accusation. Pakistan, an Islamic nation, says it does not aid terrorism in either state but supports the right of Kashmiris to self-determination.

Mr. Rao's address from the ramparts of the sandstone fort was made under heavy police guard. The audience, mostly of government officials, diplomats and some local residents, passed through metal detectors before being allowed to their seats.

Dogs trained to detect explosives patrolled the venue before the ceremony began. Mirrors attached to long sticks were used to search under the chassis of cars parked near the fort.

Kashmir, made up of a wide valley and lush mountains, was a princely state that was split between India and Pakistan when the two countries were born in the partition of British colonial India in August 1947.

India celebrates its independence on Aug. 15, while Pakistan does so a day earlier.

U.N.: Amnesty agreed for S. African exiles

GENEVA (R) — The South African government has agreed with the United Nations to grant a general amnesty to political exiles who fled apartheid rule, a U.N. official said Friday.

The United Nations set a general amnesty as a condition for agreeing to help repatriate thousands of exiles. Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) wanted an amnesty before starting constitution talks with the government.

Nicolas Bwakira, head of the African division of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), said oral agreement was reached with South Africa's ambassador in Geneva, Albert Manley, and a document would be initialled later Friday.

Mr. Bwakira said the agreement did not apply to those detained within South Africa.

It applied to all who had left South Africa before Oct. 8, 1990, with the government expressing willingness to consider cases of those who have left after that date.

South African newspapers said Friday the amnesty could cover up to 40,000 exiles who fled apartheid rule.

"All political offences (of those who left) are granted amnesty. No-one should be prosecuted for

a political offence which may have been committed before going into exile or while in exile," Mr. Bwakira said.

"What is excluded here (from the amnesty) is serious common law crimes," he said, adding that the agreement goes into detail to try to distinguish between political offences and crimes such as basic human rights.

The UNHCR now intends to launch an appeal for \$35 million to \$40 million to help repatriate up to 40,000 exiles. Several governments have expressed a willingness to give money, and the UNHCR intends to ask South Africa to contribute as well.

It plans to send representatives in 10 to 15 days to try to ensure those returning are not mistreated.

The high commissioner wishes to have access to all those people who are returning in order to be able to verify the respect of the provisions of this amnesty," Mr. Bwakira said.

UNHCR officers will have free access anywhere in the country to the returnees, who also will have complete freedom of movement within the country.

The agreement, to be signed in a few days after Friday's initialing, also provides for a mechanism allowing the UNHCR to make representations for those not granted amnesty.

High Commissioner Sadako Ogata hailed the accord, reached

after 501 days of negotiations.

"For UNHCR, this agreement marks the beginning of the end of 30-year-long human tragedy," she said in a statement. "For South Africa, it is a giant step toward the construction of a society where all South Africans enjoy basic human rights."

The UNHCR now intends to launch an appeal for \$35 million to \$40 million to help repatriate up to 40,000 exiles. Several governments have expressed a willingness to give money, and the UNHCR intends to ask South Africa to contribute as well.

The money would help with registering and transporting exiles and also the cost of settling them back in South Africa.

Mr. Bwakira said the UNHCR had rejected a text proposed by South Africa because it did not provide for a general amnesty.

The government has hitherto permitted only selective amnesties for returning exiles and only for the crime of leaving the country illegally.

The South African newspaper Business Day said before the deal was confirmed it would demonstrate President F.W. De Klerk's firm commitment to removing final obstacles to negotiations on a non-racial constitution.

Osijek residents had suffered a sleepless night as fierce artillery barrages echoed from the nearby village of Tenja.

The village is divided into an old Serb and a new Croat area. The two have fought several battles since early July.

The Croats lost control of Kostajnica, a key link between Serb-held areas in eastern and southern Croatia, two weeks ago. They re-entered the town when Serb insurgents bypassed it, but have

Yugoslavia truce shattered; 3 dead but 77 prisoners swapped

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Federal officials organised the exchange of 77 prisoners Thursday after fierce artillery duels shattered Croatia's fragile truce and one Croatian guardsman and two civilian were reported killed.

Members of a federal monitoring commission, alarmed the eight-day-old ceasefire might be in danger, hurried to Croatia's eastern Slavonia region to negotiate with warring Serbs and Croats and pin blame for violations.

Croatian Interior Ministry officials said 77 prisoners — 43 Serbs and 34 Croats — had been exchanged in Slavonia Thursday evening under the auspices of the federal monitors. About 100 prisoners from both sides had already been exchanged earlier this week.

The day began with more violence though. A member of Croatia's National Guard was killed in fighting around Kostajnica, a strategic town south of Zagreb, Croatia's Defence Ministry said.

Croatian TV reported two civilians had been found dead near the town of Petrinja, some 40 kilometres north of Kostajnica. It gave no further details of when or how the two died.

The Croats lost control of Kostajnica, a key link between Serb-held areas in eastern and southern Croatia, two weeks ago. They re-entered the town when Serb insurgents bypassed it, but have

fought almost daily battles to keep it.

More than 200 people have died in fighting after Croatia declared independence June 25. The fragile ceasefire took effect on Aug. 7, but has been violated dozens of times and at least 16 people have been reported killed.

Prayers were said in churches throughout Roman Catholic Croatia for peace as the battle-scarred republic marked the Feast of the Assumption.

In Osijek, a town of 130,000 at the centre of Slavonia, 43 Serbs were released from the local jail, the Interior Ministry officials said.

The 34 Croats were released in Borovo Selo, the base for ethnic Serb militia in the breadbasket region.

The exchange was carried out at 9 p.m. (1900 GMT), the officials said but gave no further details.

Osijek residents had suffered a sleepless night as fierce artillery barrages echoed from the nearby village of Tenja.

The village is divided into an old Serb and a new Croat area. The two have fought several battles since early July.

Mortal shells even hit outer Osijek suburbs, forcing residents to spend the night in special shelters, the Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug said.

The bombardments were said

to be the fiercest in the Osijek area since the ceasefire was proclaimed. The region has barely known a day's peace even during the truce.

Artillery duels also were fought between the Croat-held village of Sarvas and the nearby Serb-held stronghold of Bijelo Brdo.

Fierce clashes also were reported from around Belli Manastir, a town nestled close to the Hungarian border in eastern Croatia.

The Croatian Defence Ministry also reported that Serbian insurgents and the federal army took over Croatian TV's main transmitter in western Croatia and started broadcasting Belgrade TV Wednesday.

Western Croatia is the site of the Serb enclave of Krajina, which has proclaimed autonomy from Croatia. Croatia accuses the federal army, which says it is a buffer between the two sides, of

witnessed by two other people called seconds. There is one second for each duellist. The decision to abolish the articles was taken earlier this year and will be enacted this fall, the paper said.

Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic, says Croatia can leave Yugoslavia, but cannot along the 600,000 Serbs in the republic, nor their territory.

Croatia has lost control of an estimated 18.5 per cent of its territory, but vows not to cede an inch of land to the Serbs.

The conflict has been inflamed by fear and fierce propaganda war on both sides.

COLUMN

Greece to abolish laws on duelling

ATHENS (AP) — A slight against one's honour, a thrown glove and a dawn encounter in ten paces where one of the duelists is killed, will no longer be considered a misdemeanor but murder. The weekly paper To Vima reported that five articles of the penal code concerning duelling that have been gathering dust in law books for over a century,

will be abolished. Legal experts said Wednesday they did not know anyone had ever been convicted under the penal code but that killing a person in a duel after the articles are written off will be considered premeditated murder.

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witnessed by two other people called seconds. There is one second for each duellist. The decision to abolish the articles was taken earlier this year and will be enacted this fall, the paper said.

750,000 fill Central Park for Paul Simon concert

NEW YORK (R) — Three-quarters of a million people cheered and rocked with pop star Paul Simon at a free concert in New York's Central Park. Framed against a backdrop of New York's glittering skyline, Simon and his 17-piece band performed on a massive stage in front of a sea of swaying bodies dotted with flags and balloons and an occasional peace sign.

The house voted 88-76 to lift Mr. Garcia's immunity, after a seven-hour debate. An uproar broke out among Mr. Garcia's Aprista Party congressional members immediately after the vote was announced. Several dozen young party activists in the gallery shouted, "The APRA (Alliance of American Revolutionary Parties) will never die"

and punched the air with clenched fists for ten minutes.

Mr. Garcia has denied all charges of wrongdoing, accusing his political enemies of staging a witch hunt against him and vowing to defend himself in court personally if he is brought to trial.

The senate had yet to make a decision. A vote on whether to lift immunity required approval of both houses.

The charismatic Garcia, 42, gained international attention early in his 1985-90 term when he halted payments on Peru's foreign debts and encouraged other Latin American nations to follow his lead.

He has said he will not run again for president in 1995, but he is seen as a front-runner for lack of strong opposition.

Independent Congressman Fernando Olivera, who heads a house committee investigating Mr. Garcia's finances, accused him of having taken \$50 million in public funds and laundering them through banks in Europe and the United States.

"We have proved without a doubt that there has been embezzlement for at least \$50,000," Mr. Olivera said. "We want the country to regain its lost prestige."

Mr. Olivera also accuses the former president of having spent beyond the means of his \$1,500 monthly presidential salary to build three houses in Lima.

The chamber debated both issues. Mr. Olivera also spoke of alleged links between Mr. Garcia and the ill-reputed Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

A senate committee is investigating charges that two former Central Bank officials took \$3 million in bribes from the BCCI during Mr. Garcia's term in exchange for depositing \$270 million of Peru's international reserves in the BCCI.

The committee Thursday requested the extradition from Chile of former bank president Leonel Figueroa and the arrest of the bank's ex-general manager, Hector Neyra. The action was taken when both men twice failed to appear before the committee for questioning.

As a former president, Mr. Garcia is a senator for life, and as such, cannot be tried in court unless his congressional immunity is lifted.

Hope fades for eight missing in South China Sea barge sinking

HONG KONG (AP) — Rescuers searched desperately through the stormy South China Sea for a second day Friday for eight men missing in the sinking of a derrick barge, including four trapped in a decompression chamber.

Rescuers feared the worst for all eight. Among the 13 confirmed dead from Thursday's accident was the American skipper Billy Young, said George Stapleton, a representative of the barge's owner.

A Hong Kong Marine Department official said rescuers were using an underwater camera to try and locate the decompression chamber because conditions were considered still too dangerous for divers.

Two specially trained divers from Singapore were on standby to try to free the three Britons and a New Zealander trapped in the chamber, said Trevor Berry, spokesman for the Hong Kong Maritime Rescue Centre.

But the air supply in the chamber

was to have run out at 6 a.m. (2200 GMT) Thursday.

"It is very sad but I think we have got to accept that we have probably lost these eight missing men now," Mr. Berry said. "But we shall keep searching in the hope that a miracle might happen."

There were 195 people on the Singapore-owned vessel, the derrick barge 29, when it capsized and sank in Typhoon Fred 105 kilometres east of Hong Kong Wednesday. The barge was working on an oil exploration project with China.

Hong Kong government information services said 174 members of the multinational crew were rescued alive in an air-and-sea operation and 13 were confirmed dead.

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